

Dear GAE Committee:

Please raise **SB 184** that allows COVID to be a valid reason to use absentee ballots in the November 2022 election. We know that COVID has presented variants that have caused havoc and a surge in hospitalizations and deaths since it first appeared in early 2020. We don't know how it will present in the fall.

We may have a new variant or a serious uptick in cases that could make it difficult to find poll workers and frightening for many voters, including essential health care workers.

CT's voters deserve to vote and have their voices heard without fear of contracting this devastating illness.

Judy Lhamon
Hamden